

U.S. Embassy, Manila, Philippines

Emergency Message for U.S. Citizens: Philippines Travel Warning

November 21, 2014

THE EMBASSY OF THE UNITED STATES IS TRANSMITTING THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION AS A PUBLIC SERVICE TO U.S. CITIZENS IN THE PHILIPPINES. PLEASE DISSEMINATE THIS MESSAGE TO ALL U.S. CITIZENS IN YOUR ORGANIZATION OR NEIGHBORHOOD. THANK YOU.

The U.S. Embassy wishes to advise all U.S. citizens that the Department of State issued an updated Philippines Travel Warning on November 20, 2014.

The Department of State warns U.S. citizens of the risks of travel to the Philippines, in particular to the Sulu Archipelago, the island of Mindanao, and the southern Sulu Sea area. This Travel Warning replaces the Travel Warning dated May 19, 2014, and reflects continuing threats in those areas due to terrorist and insurgent activities.

The full text of the message can be found on the Department of State web site at http://travel.state.gov/content/passports/english/alertswarnings/philippines-travel-warning.html. The message can also be accessed through the Embassy web site at http://manila.usembassy.gov/wwwha008.html. U.S. citizens should closely monitor Travel Warnings and Alerts, as well as Country Specific Information, on the Department of State's travel website to be informed of the latest safety and security information for destination countries.

Contact the U.S. embassy or consulate for up-to-date information on travel restrictions. You can also call 1-888-407-4747 toll-free in the United States and Canada or 1-202-501-4444 from other countries. These numbers are available from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. Eastern Time, Monday through Friday (except U.S. federal holidays). Follow us on Twitter and Facebook to have travel information at your fingertips.

We strongly recommend that U.S. citizens traveling to or residing in the Philippines enroll in the <u>Department of State's Smart Traveler Enrollment Program (STEP)</u> at <u>travel.state.gov</u>. STEP enrollment gives you the latest security updates, and makes it easier for the U.S. embassy or nearest U.S. consulate to contact you in an emergency. If you don't have Internet access, enroll directly with the nearest U.S. embassy or consulate.

Regularly monitor the State <u>Department's website</u>, where you can find current <u>Travel Warnings</u>, including the <u>Travel Warnings</u> for the <u>Philippines</u>, Travel Alerts, and the Worldwide Caution. Read the <u>Country Specific Information for the Philippines</u>. For additional information, refer to <u>"Traveler's Checklist"</u> on the State Department's website.